



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

### **Reply to Ambassador Markus Mueller, Head of Center in Bishkek**

As delivery by Deputy Political Counselor, Katherine Brucker  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
December 16, 2004

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you Ambassador Mueller, for your comprehensive and thorough report of the Center in Bishkek's ongoing and future activities. The Center is doing a fine job under your very able leadership.

Clearly, the major emphasis for 2005 will be on assisting the Kyrgyz government to ensure that parliamentary and presidential elections proceed in the fair and democratic manner for which President Akaev has pledged his government's support.

We strongly endorse the Center's efforts, in coordination with the UNDP, to help Kyrgyz authorities implement new electoral legislation in a manner that is fully consistent with international standards. Successful application of these provisions in an atmosphere of openness and transparency will help ensure an election that reflects the true aspirations of the Kyrgyz people.

As a donor to Kyrgyzstan's Police Assistance Program, the United States appreciates the Center's efforts to implement the program and to develop a realistic, strategic concept for the next phase of police reform. Respect for human rights and the rule of law is key to building police services that inspire public confidence, and we commend the Center's emphasis of these concepts. Close coordination among the OSCE field presences, institutions and delegations, as well as with UNODC, is vital to achieving our shared goal of successful policing reforms in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

We wish Ambassador Mueller and his staff continued success in the tasks that lie before them, and stand ready to assist in any practical way that we can.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.